

Application No. 10/086,010
Amendment dated January 12, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 15, 2003

REMARKS

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,107,979 to Chiu et al. (hereinafter, "Chiu"). By this amendment, claims 1, 3, 10, 15-47 are amended without adding any new subject matter. As amended, claim 1 calls for a spatial light modulator wherein at least some pixels of the multi-pixel memory array are disposed outside the display array such that the multi-pixel memory array is physically decoupled from the multi-pixel display array. Support for the new limitations may be found on page 18 on line 8 and page 14, line 17 in the Applicant's specification. Reconsideration of the § 102 rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested in view of the added limitation to physically decoupling of the multi-pixel memory and pixel display arrays. Accordingly, claim 1 is not anticipated by the Chiu reference which fails to teach this limitation. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider allowance of claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom.

Rather than teaching that the multi-pixel memory array is physically decoupled from the multi-pixel display array in a spatial light modulator, the Chiu reference merely teaches a monolithic programmable format pixel array which can be operated in multiple formats. That is, the array can be configured in different sizes of pixel array based on a variety of broadcasting standards. However, there is no teaching of physically decoupling the multi-pixel memory and display arrays in the spatial light modulator taught in the Chiu reference. Because the Chiu reference is silent on the physical decoupling feature, as claimed in claim 1, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Chiu reference fails to teach all of the limitations in amended claim 1.

Claims 2, 10, 15, 21, 26-27, 28, 31-33 and 36-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Chiu reference. The independent claim 10 calls for a spatial light modulator, wherein a first area which occupies a pixel memory array and a second area which occupies a pixel display area are physically decoupled and substantially non-overlapping. For the similar reasons as stated with respect to claim 1, claim 10 is not rendered obvious in view of

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the Chiu reference. Absent a teaching of first and second areas being physically decoupled and substantially non-overlapping, the Chiu reference fails to make a *prima facie* obviousness case of claim 10.

The Chiu reference does not specifically teach that the first and second areas belonging to pixel memory array and pixel display array respectively each couples to a logic circuit such that two areas are physically decoupled and substantially non-overlapping. Without a specific hint or a suggestion in the Chiu reference itself as to the two arrays being physically decoupled and substantially non-overlapping, the Chiu reference does not teach a spatial light modulator claimed in claim 10.

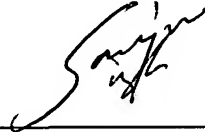
Based on the same reasons set forth above in the context of claim 10, the method of claim 15 is not rendered obvious to one of ordinary skill in the pertinent art. Therefore, withdrawal of the § 103 rejection of claim 15 is respectfully requested. Likewise, the method of operating a light modulator of claim 30 wherein a pixel memory array is physically decoupled from the pixel display array, convert the pixel data value, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the § 103 rejection thereof.

In a similar manner, the display device of claim 28 in which a multi-bit pixel value storage is physically decoupled from the first plurality of pixel display cells is not rendered obvious either in view of the Chiu reference. As amended, claim 34 in which a projection device includes first and second regions that are not physically coupled is patentably distinguishable over the Chiu reference. According to the same analysis applied to claim 34, the spatial light modulator of claim 36 wherein at least some of the storage cells are located outside the display array and are physically decoupled from the display array is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider all the pending claims.

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In view of these amendments and remarks, the application is now in condition for allowance and the Examiner's prompt action in accordance therewith is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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